

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 97, 98 and 100 as follows:

Claims 1-96 (canceled)

Claim 97 (currently amended): An automatically-activated laser scanning 2-D bar code symbol reading system employing a visible linear-type laser scanning pattern and an audible feedback signal during scan data capturing and buffering operations, said automatically-activated laser scanning 2-D bar code symbol reading system comprising:

a hand-supportable 2-D bar code symbol reader in communication with a host system, and having a bar code reading mode of operation, a data transmission mode of operation and a working distance, and including

(1) a hand-supportable housing;

(2) an ~~objection~~ object detection subsystem disposed within said hand-supportable housing, for (i) automatically detecting the presence of an object within an object detection field external to said hand-supportable housing and spatially encompassing a substantial portion of said visible linear-type laser scanning pattern along the working distance of said system, and (ii) automatically generating an activation control signal in response to the detection of the object detection within said object detection field; and

(3) an automatically-activated laser scanning 2-D bar code symbol reading mechanism, disposed in said hand-supportable housing and activated in response to the generation of said control activation signal, for automatically (i) producing, during said bar code reading mode of operation, a visible linear-type laser scanning pattern for scanning a 2-D bar code symbol ~~structure~~ on an object as said hand-supportable housing is manually transported past said 2-D bar code symbol along a height-wise direction by an operator, (ii) capturing lines of scan data from said scanned 2-D bar code symbol structure, (ii) buffering said lines of scan data in buffer memory, and (iv) decode processing said buffered lines of scan data, and (v) generating a symbol character data string representative of said read 2-D bar code symbol;

wherein said automatically-activated laser scanning 2-D bar code symbol reading mechanism includes

(a) a bar code symbol data detector for automatically detecting each line of said 2-D bar code symbol during said bar code reading mode of operation, and automatically producing a line of scan data for buffering in a said buffer memory, and

(b) an audible data capture buffering indicator, responsive to said bar code symbol data detector, for automatically generating an audible feedback signal to the operator as each line of scan data is captured and buffered in said buffer memory so as to indicate to the operator that lines of scan data are being produced and buffered in said buffer memory as the operator manually transports said hand-supportable housing past said 2-D bar code symbol along said height-wise direction, and for said audible feedback signal to cease when all lines of scan data associated with said 2-D bar code symbol have been collected and buffered in said buffer memory,

and

(c) a decode processor for automatically decode processing an entire set of scan data collected in said buffer memory corresponding to a the scanned 2-D bar code symbol, and generating a symbol character data string representative of said read 2-D bar code symbol;

(3) a data transmission circuit, disposed in said hand-supportable housing, for transmitting said produced symbol character data string to a host system; and

(4) a device controller, disposed within said hand-supportable housing, for controlling said automatically-activated laser scanning 2-D bar code symbol reading mechanism and said data transmission circuit.

Claim 98 (currently amended): The automatically-activated laser scanning 2-D bar code symbol reading system of claim 97, which further comprises a good read indicator, integrated with said hand-supportable housing, for indicating each instance of when a 2D bar code symbol is read by said laser-scanning bar code symbol reading mechanism and a symbol character data string representative thereof is produced.

Claim 99 (previously presented): The automatically-activated laser scanning 2-D bar code symbol reading system of claim 97, said object detection subsystem comprises an infrared (IR)

signal transmission/receiving circuitry for automatically detecting said object within said object detection field.

Claim 100 (currently amended): The automatically-activated laser scanning 2D bar code symbol reading system of claim 97, wherein said object detection subsystem disposed within said hand-supportable housing, ~~and including~~ includes a low-power non-visible laser beam signaling mechanism for automatically detecting said object within said object detection field.